

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4631

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ARMY GENERALS

REF: (A) LISBON 4422; (B) STATE 187990

STATEMENT IN LISBON 4422 STATING MAGALHAES AND COSTA GOMES ARE ONLY REMAINING GENERALS IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WHO HELD THAT RANK PRIOR TO APRIL, 1974 REVOLUTION IS INCORRECT. STATEMENT WAS BASED ON IDENTICAL INFORMATION FROM THREE SOURCES. IN FACT, OF THE 25 THREE AND FOUR-STAR GENERALS IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY TODAY, 15 WERE FLAG RANK BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. (5 WERE THREE-STAR; 10 WERE BRIGADIER). (OF THE 26 CURRENT BRIGADIERS, 12 HELD THE RANK BEFORE THE 25TH OF APRIL.) WORTHY OF NOTE, HOWEVER, IS FACT THAT OF THE THREE AND FOUR-STAR GENERALS WHO WERE BRIGADIERS OR HIGHER BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, ONLY MAGALHAES CAN BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING A MAJOR TROOP COMMAND TODAY. GENERAL ERNESTO MACEDO IS ARMY COMMANDER IN ANGOLA, BUT IS UNDER HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL CARDOSO. ALL OTHER THREE AND FOUR-STAR GENERALS (WHO WERE FLAG RANK BEFORE THE REVOLUTION) NOW HOLD DOWN STAFF ASSIGNMENTS -- MOST OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE.

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